

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 SEC-01

OMB-01 JUSE-00 FTC-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 /073 W

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8829

AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 4647

E.O. N/A

TAGS: BBAK, PFOR, NL, US

SUBJ: LOCKHEED AND PRINCE BERNHARD

1. A SOMBER PRIME MINISTER TOLD A HUSHED PARLIAMENT AND A NATIONAL RADIO/TV AUDIENCE AUGUST 26 THAT GON ACCEPTS FULLY REPORT OF DONNER COMMISSION WHICH CAME TO THE CONSLUSION THAT "PRINCE BERNHARD" ORIGINALLY ENTERED MUCH TOO LIGHLY INTO TRANSACTIONS WHICH WERE BOUND TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO FAVORS. LATER HE SHOWED HIMSELF OPEN TO DISHONORABLE REQUESTS AND OFFERS. FINALLY, HE ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE TEMPTED TO TAKE INITIATIVES WHICH WERE COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE AND WHICH WERE BOUND TO PLACE HIMSELF AND THE GOVERNMENT'S PROCUREMENT POLICY IN THE EYES OF LOCKHEED-- AND NOW IT MUST BE ADDED, ALSO IN THE EYES OF OTHERS--IN A DUBIOUS LIGHT." ALTHOUGH NO EVIDENCE "HAS BEEN FOUND OF ANY ACTUAL INFLUENCE BY THE PRINCE ON THE PROCUREMENT POLICY EXAMINED, THE PRINCE'S ACTIONS HAVE DAMAGED THE NATIONAL INTEREST."

2. DEN UYL TOLD PARLIAMENT THAT GON HAD CONCLUDED THAT BERNHARD
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SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM ALL OF HIS POSITIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN CONDUCIVE

TO A CONFUSION OF FUNCTIONS AND INTERESTS. BERNHARD HAS AGREED TO GIVE UP ALL OF HIS MILITARY POSITIONS (INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE ARMED FORCES(AND MEMBERSHIP ON THE GENERAL DEFENSE COUNCIL AND THE DEFENSE COUNCIL), AND ALSO TO RESIGN FROM HIS BUSINESS FUNCTIONS (HE HAS HELD SOME 300 BUSINESS DIRECTORSHIPS, AND HAS TAKEN AN ACTIVE PART IN MANY OF THOSE COMPANIES). PRINCE HAS ALSO WRITTEN APOLOGETIC LETTER OF REGRET ADMITTING HE HAD "NOT BEEN CRITICAL ENOUGH IN MY JUDGMENT OF INITIATIVES PRESENTED TO ME."

3 DEN UYL CONCLUDED HIS SPEECH BY ANNOUNCING THAT THE GON HAD RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM THE USG TO PUBLISH ALL DOCUMENTS AND THAT, IN THE INTEREST OF OPENNESS, EVERYTHING PROVIDED BY THE DONNER COMMITTEE WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC. IN DOING SO, DEN UYL TOLD PARLIAMENTARIANS THAT THEY AND DUTCH NATION COULD FORM THEIR OWN JUDGEMENTS ABOUT THE AFFAIR AND THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE CASE. PARLIAMENT HAS NOW RECESSED FOR SEVERAL HOURS TO DECIDE IF AND WHEN THEY SHOULD HOLD A DEBATE ON THE SUBJECT. THE DEBATE IS EXPECTED TO BE TOMORROW. IT IS POSSIBLE THE QUEEN MAY MAKE A STATEMENT, BUT DEN UYL CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY EXPRESSING HIS HOPES THE PEOPLE OF THE NETHERLANDS WILL FORM AN UNBIASED OPINION ON THE CASE, WHICH WHOLD "STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT THE QUEEN AS SHE CONTINUES TO PERFORM THE DUTIES WHICH SHE HAS ACCEPTED AS HER TASK".
BROWN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, CORRUPTION, BRIBERY, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976THEHA04647
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760326-0619
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760815/aaaaamnl.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2005 by morandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOCKHEED AND PRINCE BERNHARD
TAGS: BBAK, PFOR, NL, US, LOCKHEED, (BERNHARD, PRINCE)
To: STATE
BERN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006